

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 DLOS-07

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DRAFTED BY NAVY/JAG - CDR. KJOS:LH

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR - MR. BURKE

ISA/I-A - CAPTAIN GOODEN

PM/ISO - FFLEMMINGS

SAFGC - BOYD ALLEN

ARA/CAR - KLWAUCHOPE

OSD/GC - JAMES ALLEN

L/PM - JMICHEL

ISA/FMRA - MR. LONG

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R 252144Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF, US

SUBJECT: ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD, ANDROS ISLAND, BAHAMAS

REF: (A) NASSAU 1026; (B) STATE 27485 (1022272 FEB 69);

(C) NASSAU 169 (251510Z FEB 69); (D) NASSAU 1141

(251810Z JUN 74)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, NAVY CONTINUES TO REQUIRE ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD TO SUPPORT AUTEC. NAVY'S STAKE IN CONTINUED USE IS ENHANCED BY 1969 NAVY RESURFACING OF THE AIRSTRIP, VALUE OF LABOR AND MATERIALS ESTIMATED TO BE \$300,000. THE RIGHT OF THE USG TO USE ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD RESTS UPON ARTICLE XV(3) OF THE AUTEC AGREEMENT, APPLICABLE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHT OF ORAL ASSURANCE IN 1969 BY GOBI MINISTER OF COM-

MUNICATIONS, CONFIRMED BY PRIME MINISTER (REFS B AND C), THAT FIELD IS OPERATED ON BEHALF OF GOBI. CONSEQUENTLY, US RIGHT DOES NOT DEPEND ON AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER.

2. RIGHT TO USE ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD, PROVIDED BY ARTICLE XV(3) OF ATEC AGREEMENT WILL LAPSE IF NEW AGREEMENTS WITHOUT SIMILAR LANGUAGE COME INTO FORCE. ALTHOUGH PARA (1) OF DRAFT OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT PROVIDES EXEMPTION FROM LANDING FEES AT BAHAMIAN AIRFIELDS FOR US FORCES AIRCRAFT, IT DOES NOT CLEARLY PROVIDE RIGHT OF USE OR EXEMPTION FROM LANDING FEES AT PRIVATELY OWNED AIRFIELDS. MOREOVER, IT IS DESIRED THAT RIGHTS FOR FACILITY ORIENTED OPERATIONS NOT

DEPEND ON THE GENERAL OPERATING RIGHTS AGREEMENT. THE MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THE IMMINENT SALE OF PROPERTY AND WHETHER SALE WOULD ENTAIL CHANGE OF STATUS OF AIRFIELD INSOFAR AS ITS OPERATION ON BEHALF OF GCOB IS CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY, PRIOR TO SALE OF PROPERTY, WE WISH TO OBTAIN GCOB CONFIRMATION THAT AFTER SALE FIELD STILL WOULD BE OPERATED ON BEHALF OF GCOB, SO THAT ARTICLE XV(3) WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY. FOR ITS PART, USG PREPARED TO CONTINUE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS AS CONTAINED IN PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH MR. REYNOLDS. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE APPROACH GCOB AT EARLY DATE AND REQUEST ABOVE CONFIRMATION, IN WRITING IF POSSIBLE. AFTER SUCH CONFIRMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, MR. LEWIS REYNOLDS THGHTS UNDER AND THE PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER OF ONGOING RIGHTS UNDER ARTICLE XV(3). WE HOPE NEGOTIATION WITH NEW OWNER OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, DEPT AND DOD AGR3) OF ATEC 3 REF D THAT A MODIFIED VERSION OF ARTICLE XV(3) OF ATEC AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ADDED AS A NEW PARAGRAPH 4 TO SHIPPING AND AVIATION ARTICLE OF DRAFT FACILITIES AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO INSURE CONTINUED ACCESS BY USG TO ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD AND OTHER AIRFIELDS IN THE BAHAMAS, OPERATED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE GCOB FOR FACILITY ORIENTED OPERATIONS. TEXT OF NEW PARAGRAPH IS AS FOLLOWS:

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"AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY, FOR OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHALL FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS AGREEMENT, HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE AIRPORTS IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS BELONGING TO OR OPERATED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS ON SUCH CONDITIONS AS SHALL BE AGREED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS. NO LANDING CHARGES SHALL, HOWEVER, BE PAYABLE BY THE UNITED

STATES GOVERNMENT BY REASON OF THE USE BY SUCH AIRCRAFT OF THOSE AIRPORTS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHALL MAKE A FAIR AND REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS OF AIRFIELDS USED BY SUCH AIRCRAFT ON A FREQUENT BASIS, THE AMOUNT OF SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS BEING DETERMINED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS." AT TIME NEW AGREEMENTS ARE CONCLUDED, US WOULD SEEK EXCHANGE OF NOTES UNDER WHICH GCOB WOULD AGREE THAT OPERATION OF ANDROS TOWN AIRFIELD WOULD REMAIN ON BEHALF GCOB FOR DURATION OF FACILITIES AGREEMENT AND THAT EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING COSTS WOULD LIKEWISE CONTINUE.

5. TIMING OF PRESENTATION TO GCOB OF THIS ADDITION IS LEFT TO EMBASSY DISCRETION. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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